cars, two-wheelers and three-wheelers leading to a glut in the market, as far as commercial vehicles are concerned;

(b) whether it is a fact that while some brands of passenger cars and two-wheelers continue to command a premium there are glut conditions in other brands of these vehicles;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and whether Government will review their automobile policy to remove these imbalances; and

(d) whether attention will be given by Government to indigenisation and fuel efficiency while formulating a new automobile policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Production plans are finalised by the manufactures taking into account the demand for vehiles.

(b) and (c) While possibility of premium on some vehicles cannot be denied, no specific instance has been brought to the notice of the Govt.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Grant of new licence to M/s. T.T.K. & Co.

677. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have granted new licences to M/s T.T.K. & Co. during 1986 to diversity its production to item of domestic use;

(b) Whether it is a fact that complaints against T.T.K. & Co. are pending with MRTPC, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) During the period Jan—May, 1986, one Letter of Intent has been issued to M/s. T.T.K. & Co. for the establishment of a new undertaking for the manufacture of (i) Pressure Cookers-67,000 Nos., (ii) Barbecue-70,000 nos. (iii) Kitchenware Tools and gadgets-Rs. 50 lakhs worth, and (iv) Non-stick cookware and woks etc.-1,50,000 nos. per annum. No industrial licence has been issued during this period to the said company.

(b) and (c) The following two matters in respect of the aforesaid company are pending with M.R.T.P. Commission namely:—

(i) An enquiry under Section 10 (a) (iv) of the MRTP Act, 1969 in respect of certain restrictive trade practices. The Commission has issued the Notice of Enquiry to the company and the hearing in the matter is fixed for 29th August, 1986.

(ii) An application by Director general (I&R) under Section 36B (c) of the MRTP Act in respect of certain unfair trade practices in the sale of products of the company. The commission has directed the Director General (I & R) to make investigation from manufacturers of similar products also and to furnish his report.

Import of telecommunications equipments

678. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecommunications is planning to import telecommunications equipments worth reupees seven hundred crores for use in the telecommunication services in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department proposes to import equipment worth Rs. 572 crores in foreign currency for use in the Telecom. Services in the coutry.

(b) The import of Telecom. equipment has been necessitated in order to

fill gap between indigenous availability and requirement of 7th Five Year Plan Projects.

Reduction in voting age

679. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision to reduce the voting age from 21 to 18 years; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Government are of the view that, having regard to the socio-economic conditions obtaining in our country it is not practicable or advantageous now to lowest the voting age.

Public sector investment in Eastern Region

680. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total public sector investment in the eastern region in general and West Bengal in particular, for setting up of new modern industries todate sice 1962;

(b) the particulars of the Central and centrally-sponsored new industrial units that have come into existence todate since 1962; and

(c) the factors responsible for eastern zone's poor performance in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI K. K. TEWARI): (a) and (c) It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member is referring to investment in Central Public Enterprises in the eastern region. As on 31-3-1985 the investment in central public enterprises in the eastern region stood at Rs. 12176.68 crores as detailed below:—

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the State	Investment in terms of gross-block as on 31.3.1985
Orissa	2997.74
West Bengal	3345.37
Bihar	5833.77
TOTAL :	12176.88

This works out 25.73 per cent of the total investment in central public enterprises in the country as on 31-3-1985, which is quite significant.

(b) Some of the major industrial units that have come up in the public sector (including nationalised units) after 1962 in the Eastern Region are:— Bokaro Steel Plant in Bihar including its expansion units; expansion, modernisation of Rourkela and Durgapur Steel Plants including Alloy Steel Plant at Durgapur, Eastern Coalfields and Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.; units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. at Sindri and Talcher; Hindustan Fertilizer Corporations's Units at Durgapur, Barauni and Haldia; Indian Oil Corporation's Refineries at Barauni and Haldia; National Aluminium Co. Ltd. in Orissa; Sargipali Lead Mines of Hindustan Zinc Ltd. in Orissa; Paradeep Phosphates in Orissa; HAL Ltd.'s Unit in Orissa; Orissa Sands Complex of Indian Rare Earths Ltd.; NTPC Farakka Project in West BGengal etc. In addition, Govt. have nationalised a number of sick units in West Bengal such as Braithwaite & Co. Ltd, Burn Standard Co. Ltd., Jessop & Co. Ltd., NTC Units at West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa etc.

Bid for off-shore oil exploration

681. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government called a meeting of the Indian and foreign companies in May, 1986 for a bid for